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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 117 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/55/713.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 44th, 45th, 50th and 55th meetings, on 13, 14, 22 and 30 March 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/55/SR.44, 45, 50 and 55).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on facilities management (A/54/628);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the internal and external printing practices of the Organization (A/55/132);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations and the management of asbestos-containing materials at buildings at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and at the locations of the regional commissions (A/55/135);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the Overseas Properties Management and Information Exchange Network: a globally coordinated collaborative approach to facilities management (A/55/210);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on common services (A/55/461);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa (A/55/493);

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(g) Report of the Secretary-General on security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva (A/55/511);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations (A/55/546);

(i) Twelfth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System project (A/55/632);

(j) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations; facilities management; overseas properties management and information exchange network; common services; internal and external printing practices; and proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities (A/55/7/Add.1);

(k) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa (A/55/7/Add.7);

(l) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Integrated Management Information System project (A/55/7/Add.8).

II. Consideration of draft decisions contained in document A/C.5/55/L.47

4. At its 55th meeting, on 30 March, the Committee had before it document A/C.5/55/L.47, which contained eight draft decisions submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations: draft decision I entitled "Integrated Management Information System", draft decision II entitled "Review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations and the management of asbestos-containing materials at overseas buildings at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and at the locations of the regional commissions", draft decision III entitled "Facilities management", draft decision IV entitled "Profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations", draft decision V entitled "Construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa", draft decision VI entitled "Security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva", draft decision VII entitled "Common services" and draft decision VIII entitled "Internal and external printing practices of the Organization".

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decisions contained in document A/C.5/55/L.47 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Integrated Management Information System

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the twelfth progress report of the Secretary-General on the Integrated Management Information System project;[1]

(b) Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[2]

Draft decision II
Review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations and the management of asbestos-containing materials at buildings at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and at the locations of the regional commissions

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and assessment of the asbestos problem at the United Nations and the management of asbestos-containing materials at buildings at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi and at the locations of the regional commissions[3] and of the observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[4]

(b) Welcomes the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General to solve the problem at United Nations Headquarters and at some other duty stations.

Draft decision III
Facilities management

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on facilities management;[5]

(b) Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[6]

(c) Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Overseas Properties Management and Information Exchange Network: a globally coordinated collaborative approach to facilities management;[7]

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[1] A/55/632.
[2] See A/55/7/Add.8.
[3] A/55/135.
[4] A/55/7/Add.1, paras. 2-12.
[5] A/54/628.
[6] A/55/7/Add.1, paras. 13-20.
[7] A/55/210.

(d) Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report.[8]

Draft decision IV
Profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the intention of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[9] to review the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations;[10]

(b) Decides to revert to this question during the main part of its fifty-sixth session on the basis of the anticipated report of the Advisory Committee.

Draft decision V
Construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at Bangkok and Addis Ababa[11] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[12]

(b) Decides to retain the existing balance of the construction-in-progress account in that account pending its consideration of all related matters in accordance with the procedure established by resolution 37/237 of 21 December 1982.

Draft decision VI
Security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva, including envisioned financial arrangements[13] and the related observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[14]

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to keep the security arrangements at the United Nations Office at Geneva under review to ensure the full protection of delegates, staff and visitors in the United Nations premises and the safety of the United Nations property at Geneva.

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[8] A/55/7/Add.1, paras. 21-23.
[9] A/55/7/Add.1, para. 39.
[10] A/55/546.
[11] A/55/493.
[12] A/55/7/Add.7.
[13] A/55/511.
[14] See A/C.5/55/SR.44.

Draft decision VII
Common services

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on common services:[15]

(a) Endorses the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[16]

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the progress made and decisions taken on the future of the Task Force on Common Services, bearing in mind the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee referred to in paragraph (a) above.

Draft decision VIII
Internal and external printing practices of the Organization

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the internal and external printing practices of the Organization:[17]

(a) Endorses the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report on the subject;[18]

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to further improve the printing practices of the Organization, bearing in mind the documentation requirements of Member States mandated by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions, and expanding the use of the United Nations printing facilities as a common service for the needs of the United Nations funds and programmes based at Headquarters and the specialized agencies based at Geneva.

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[15] A/55/461.
[16] A/55/7/Add.1, paras. 24-29.
[17] A/55/132.
[18] A/55/7/Add.1, paras. 30-38.